REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-6, 9-11 and 13-17 will be pending in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment.

As a preliminary matter, attention is directed to the Information Disclosure Statements filed September 15 and October 22, 2009, both subsequent to the mailing date of the current Official Action. Please consider both of these IDSs when reviewing the revised claims and following remarks.

The claims have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which applicants regard as their invention and to focus on the allowable subject matter in claim 8 as identified on page 5, item 10 of the Official Action. The subject matter of claim 8 has been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 13 and all of the remaining claims, by virtue of their dependency from either of these claims, will include this feature as well.

Claims 9 and 15 have been amended to be consistent with the examiner's understanding of these claims as indicated in the last sentence of item 2 of the Official Action. If for any reason the examiner would prefer a different form of expression, please contact the undersigned.

Submitted herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer over co-pending application Serial No. 10/580,402 in order to resolve the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection stated in item 4 of the Official Action.

As indicated above, with the subject matter of claim 8 incorporated into the two main independent claims the rejections based upon prior art in items 6-9 of the Official Action have been overcome.

Counsel believes that this Amendment will place all claims in condition for allowance however if there are any questions or the examiner has concerns, please contact the undersigned.

GREEN et al
Appl. No. 10/579,923
November 23, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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